

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Absorbent article which has a substantially elongated shape with a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction and exhibits two side edges $[(9, 10)]$, a front edge $[(11)]$ and a rear edge $[(12)]$, a front portion $[(6)]$ and a rear portion $[(7)]$, and a central portion $[(8)]$ situated between the front portion $[(6)]$ and the rear portion $[(7)]$, ~~which~~ said article furthermore exhibits a liquid-pervious cover layer $[(2)]$ and a liquid-impervious cover layer $[(3)]$ and an absorbent body $[(4)]$,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rear portion $[(7)]$ of the absorbent body $[(4)]$ comprises a layer $[(17)]$ that is split into a substantially Y-shaped body having a first leg $[(15)]$ and a second leg $[(16)]$ with a gap between the legs $[(15, 16)]$ where an angle α is defined between the first leg $[(15)]$ and the second leg $[(16)]$, and

~~that~~ wherein an elastic member $[(19)]$ is placed between the first leg $[(15)]$ and the second leg $[(16)]$, ~~which~~ said elastic member $[(19)]$ essentially extends in the longitudinal direction and is in the form of a band or a thread.

2. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic member ~~[[19]]~~ bends the rear portion ~~[[7]]~~ in a substantially parabolic shape, deforming parts of the absorbent article that lies between the first leg ~~[[15]]~~ and the second leg ~~[[16]]~~, thereby forming a ridge ~~[[20]]~~ between the first leg ~~[[15]]~~ and the second leg ~~[[16]]~~.

3. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic member runs along a ~~centre~~ center line ~~[[23]]~~ of the absorbent article, from where the ~~centre~~ center line ~~[[23]]~~ meets the rear edge ~~[[12]]~~, to a point beyond the point where the layer ~~[[17]]~~ in the absorbent body ~~[[4]]~~ is split into the two legs ~~[[15, 16]]~~.

4. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic member ~~[[19]]~~ runs along the ~~centre~~ center line ~~[[23]]~~, longitudinally along the entire absorbent article.

5. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic member ~~[[19]]~~ is split into at least two elastic parts in the front portion ~~[[6]]~~.

6. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic member

[[19]] is placed in any of the layers that builds the absorbent article [[1]].

7. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the angle α is between 10°-120°.

8. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the length of the legs [[15, 16]] is 20-350 mm.

9. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the length of the ridge [[20]] is at least 10 mm.

10. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ridge has a top portion constituting an upper part of the ridge and that the width of the ridge [[20]] is 0.1-20 mm at the top portion of the ridge [[20]].

11. (currently amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic member [[19]] is attached to the article in a stretched state.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said angle α is in a transverse plane.

14. (previously presented) The absorbent article according to claim 11, wherein said first and second legs are substantially coplanar.

15. (currently amended) An absorbent article which has a substantially elongated shape with a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction and has two side edges, a front edge and a rear edge, a front portion, a rear portion and a central portion between the front portion and the rear portion, said article further has a liquid-pervious cover layer and a liquid-impervious cover layer and an absorbent body,

wherein the absorbent body comprises a layer so that only a rear portion of the absorbent layer is split into a first leg and a second leg with a gap between the legs having an angle α defined between the first leg and the second leg,

wherein said rear portion of the absorbent body begins at a change in inclination of the side edges with respect to a longitudinal center line of said article,

wherein a center portion of the absorbent body is a primary receiving portion when a liquid is emitted on to the absorbent body, and

wherein an elastic member is placed between the first leg and the second leg without overlapping said first and second legs, said elastic member essentially extends in the longitudinal direction.

16. (previously presented) An absorbent article which has a substantially elongated shape with a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction and has two side edges, a front edge and a rear edge, a front portion, a rear portion and a central portion between the front portion and the rear portion, said article further has a liquid-pervious cover layer and a liquid-impervious cover layer and an absorbent body,

wherein a rear portion of the absorbent layer is split into a first leg and a second leg with a gap between the legs having an angle α defined between the first leg and the second leg so that said gap increases in said transverse direction from said center to said rear portion, and

wherein an elastic member is placed between the first leg and the second leg, said elastic member essentially extends in the longitudinal direction.